

By Moni Basu

<http://www.cnn.com/2010/WORLD/meast/01/09/iran.bahai.trial/>

The **U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom** has also criticized Iranian officials for blaming the Baha'is for anti-government demonstrations.

"These allegations are not only without merit, but downright fabricated," said Leonard Leo, chairman of the commission, which acts as an independent advisory board to the U.S. government.

"If the Iranian government moves forward next week with the trial of the seven Baha'i leaders, the U.S. government and international community must demand fair and transparent proceedings in accordance with international human rights standards," Leo said.